

Holy Mary - the Woman

For quite some time I have been mystified over the concerted attempts from many quarters at vilifying Holy Mary.

Why is it that she, who never hurt or harmed anybody but led a life full of grace in utmost humility and most pleasing to God during her stint on earth, be reviled so much these days?

It is a mystery that requires deeper enquiry and understanding. What was Mary's mission on earth? Only to give birth to the Son of Man? No, definitely not! She had another greater mission. To participate in the mission of redemption of the Father along with her son, ie to become a co-redeemer, to put it in a larger context. And it did not come to a finale with the crucifixion of Jesus. Preparing the world for the second - coming of Jesus, she has to consummate that task too!

Psalm 110:1 says: The Lord says to my lord, "sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool." Here one thing is clear. It is not Jesus Christ who sits at the right side of the Father who makes his enemies his footstool. It is someone else who has been entrusted by the Father. Who is that? Its answer is obtained in Genesis 3:15. "The Lord God said to the serpent: I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; she will strike your head, and you will strike her heel" (Latin translation). The enmity is between the woman and the serpent. That is why the woman strikes the head of the serpent. That is the reason why the serpent exhibits hatred more towards Holy Mother than towards Jesus. Can one who snobbishly made himself god and invited the wrath of God in the process get a more pitiable defeat than to get subdued by a poor woman?

That sect which holds that Mary's mission was confined only to give birth to Jesus - Son of God, it is they who despise and vilify Her most. From these words, "...she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time" (Rev 12:14), it is clear that to give birth to Jesus is not the only mission of Holy Mary. Her mission continues even today. What do you mean by "time, and times, and half a time"? It is specified in the Book of Daniel, chapter 12, Words 7 onwards ".....it would be for a time, and two times, and half a time". It is about the end of the age. At that time everyone whose name is written in the Book shall be delivered. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Many shall be running back and forth, and knowledge shall increase.(12:1,2,4) By stating that Holy Mary shall be protected till these things happen, the task of Her in these incidents is made clear. That is why it is said that Mary has the obligation to prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus. So those who compare her to an eggshell are revealing their ignorance.

To buttress their position they quote the Cana episode wherein Jesus addressed his mother as 'woman' and his comment "What concern is that to you and to me?" The relevant section of the Gospel is as follows: "When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine'. And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come'. His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you'" (Jn 2:3-5). What Jesus has meant is: "what interest do we have in this, oh, my mother the woman? If the wine-jar is emptied, is it not their problem? If something (miracle) has to be done its time has not arrived yet." But the mother who empathised with the miserable state of affairs of the householder had no doubts at all about her son fulfilling her wish. That was why she told the servants straight to "do whatever he tells you", seemingly disregarding the reservations of Jesus. That He would fulfill her wish, she was certain of. Through this incident Jesus has been making a revelation - a declaration in fact - of who his mother really was: that she is the woman of Genesis 3:15. The Cana episode therefore turns out to be one that glorifies Holy Mary and vindicates her influence on her son Jesus; it does not in any way despise her.

Jesus addressing his mother 'Woman' while on the cross is another instance used to revile Holy Mary; that she is just an ordinary woman, without any significance. Words 26-27 of chapter 19 of the Gospel according to St. John read: "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son". Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother". And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home". In fact through this mutual entrusting Jesus has been giving his mother as the mother of all human race and the latter as children to his mother.

To perceive this one has to comprehend chapter 12 of the book of Revelation fully "Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short! So when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her place where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. Then from his mouth the serpent poured water like a river after the woman, to sweep her away with the flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman; it opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus. Then the dragon took his stand on the sand of the seashore" (Rev 12: 12-18).

Through the death of Jesus on the cross the serpent loses his place in heaven and is thrown down to the earth. He therefore turns his ire towards the woman who gave birth to Jesus who in turn caused his overthrow. But he does not have the power to hurt

Her - being born Immaculate and lived without sin. Therefore he turns his fury towards her children - living and the dead. Filling darkness in the minds of some he makes them instruments for denigrating her by misinterpreting the word of God. To an extent he has succeeded in his attempt. That is the accomplishment of the word: "You will strike her heel" (Gen 3:15). But another group of the children of God, by drawing near to her, defeat and neutralize the venom that flows from his mouth and thus glorify her.

To escape the anger of the serpent "the woman (and those who stand by her side) was given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her place". The Holy Eucharist and the Rosary are the two divine weapons given to fight against the devil; to vanquish those who have worn this armor is impossible.

When Jesus mutually entrusted Holy Mother and John, He has not been downgrading her but entrusting each one of those who love Jesus and whom Jesus loves in order to strengthen her hands to prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus. Everyone of God's own people - both the living and the dead - has to be saved before the second coming of Jesus. In this endeavour Holy Mother requires the help of every member of the 'struggling church'. It was for this reason that she showed the three children a vision of souls suffering in hell and conveyed the urgent need to pray for their salvation in her apparition at Fathima.

Holy Mother Mary is on a mission - to accomplish the mission of salvation of the Father in Heaven - to save the human race from the clutches of Satan. For that she conceived God's own Son without sin, nurtured Him in wisdom and prudence and strengthened Him till the last moment on the cross at Calvary. These days she is on the mission to prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus, by running from one place of the world to another enlightening her children, by working miracles and signs and shedding tears of blood for making the divine plans a success. Every deed and word uttered against Her only strengthens the hands of Satan, let everyone be aware of that. We shall pray for the accomplishment of her mission. By praying more Rosaries we shall glorify her and participate in her mission to destroy satan's head. May God bless us all. Ave Maria.